Shauchalaya" in the rural areas of the State under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme.

(b) and (c). An amount of Rs. 29.16 lakhs was utilised by the Raajsthan Government during 1987-88 for construction of 2,346 number of rural sanitation units in the State.

Exorbitant steel prices in India

1747. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is India's comparative position in the world market as regards prices of Indian steel; and

(b) whether India has the main ingredients for producing steel e.g. iron ore, coal, dolomite, manganese, lime-stone, cheap labour etc., if so, the reasons of its steel price being so very exorbitant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) It would not be realistic to compare Indian steel prices with those prevailing in the international market as the latter are often kept lower than the domestic prices in the countries of origin in order to support exports. However, the domestic prices of Indian steel net of taxes and levies are comparable with those of other major steel producing countries.

(b) Yes, Sir. These ingredients are to a large extent available within the country. However, domestic prices in India apart from the producer's cost include various levies towards the Freight Equalisation Fund, the Steel Development Fund, the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund, apart from Excise Duty and JPC Cess.

Gas based fertilizer plant in Cauvery or Godavari basin

1748. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had issued letter of Intent to Public or Cooperative or Private Sector to set up a gas-based fertilizer plant in the Cauvery or Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, what is the sector and the capacity initially planned for such a plant; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons that such a proposal had not been taken up, considering the potential of the huge gas availability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, the availability of adequate quantity of gas in the Godavari and Cauvery basins for setting up gas-based fertilizer projects has not been commercially established. However, for the naphtha-based fertilizer project being implemented by M|s. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Kakinada, a commitment in principle, has been given that if and when adequate gas becomes available in the Krishna-Godavari basin, they could switch over to gas as feedstock.

Oil Expellers in India

1749. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil expellers in India suffer from obsolete design, low extraction efficiency and high power consumption due to which the country annually loses about five lakh tonnes of edible oil; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to develop a modern integrated processing technology to increase oil recovery and the quality of cakes and extractions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). Indigenous oil expellers, by and

large suffer from high wear and tear and high power consumption. The residual oil content left in the cake is around 7 per cent which is considered to be normal keeping in mind the need to maintain the proper quality of oil/oil cake.

India is annually losing substantial quantities of vegetbale oils (edible and non-edible) owing to a number of factors like difficulties in the collection of oil bearing materials, lack of proper storage facilities, lack of modern processing facilities, etc. Efforts are being made to fabricate efficient expellers and also for the transfer of technology for modern processing.

लहसुन के मूल्य

1750. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश और अन्य राज्यों के किसानों ने पर्याप्त मात्रा में लहसुन का उत्पादन किया परन्तु वे अपने उत्पाद के लिए उत्पादन लागत भी प्राप्त नहीं कर सके ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या नेफेड या किसी अन्य अभिकरण द्वारा लहसुन की खरीद किए जाने के लिए कोई व्यवस्था किए जाने का विचार है ;

(ग) क्या वैकल्पिक बाजार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए लहसुन का निर्यात किए जाने का विचार है; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि लहसुन के लिए लिए उचित मूल्य न मिल पाने के कारण पश्चिमी मध्य प्रदेश के मंदसौर, इन्दौर आदि जिलों के अधिकांश किसानों की स्थिति पर विपरीत असर पड़ा है और सरकार ने उन्हें कोई राहत प्रदान नहीं की है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्याम लाल यादव) : (क) और (ख) इस वर्ष के लिए लहसुन के उत्पादन के सरकारी अनुमान उपलब्ध नहीं है। राज्य सरकार से ऐसी कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है कि किसानों को उत्पादन लागत भी नहीं मिली ।

(ग) खुले सामान्य लाइसेंस के अन्तर्गत लहसुन का निर्यात किया जाता है ।

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से ऐसी कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

Handing over of 44 colonies to MCD

1751. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 resettlement and other colonies have been handed over by D.D.A. to the Municpial Corporation of Delhi since June, 1988 for improvement works and to resolve the problems;

(b) if so, what is the number of employees and officers who have been transferred to the M.C.D. alongwith these colonies;

(c) what was the number of officers/employees so transferred as on 19th July, 1988; and

(d) what were the amounts of grant given to M.C.D. to complete civic works in the resettlement and other colonies handed over to the M.C.D. and when such amounts were given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Forty four resettlement colonies which were being maintained by the Delhi Development Authority were transferred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi with effect from 1-6-1988 for maintenance by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. 7014 employees of different categories were notified for transfer to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi but the actual number of employees transferred till date by the DDA to the MCD is 6431. A sum of Rs. 10 crores was given to the MCD in July, 1988 for completion of civic works. A grant in aid of Rs. 12.64 crores has also been released for the construction of Jan Suvidha in resettlement colonies.